

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14484

DEFENSE ALSO PASS SACLANT

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, MPOL, UK, DPC

SUBJ: ALLIANCE COOPERATIVE DEFENSE EFFORTS

REF: (A) STATE 226280; (B) STATE 226278; (C) USNATO

4964; (D) USNATO 4920

*. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A AND SINCE HOCKADAY (DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, POLICY AND PROGRAMS, MOD) WAS UNAVAILABLE, EMBOFF CONVEYED TODAY ESSENCE OF PARA 2 REFTEL (A) USING RELEVANT POINTS REFTELS (B), (C), AND (D) FOR BACKGROUND PURPOSES TO HENN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND HEAD OF DSL2 IN THE MOD.

2. HENN LISTENED INTENTLY TO THE POINTS WE MADE AND REPLIED BY NOTING THAT THE MOD ITSELF HAD ONLY RECEIVED ITS REPORT OF THE 9 SEPTEMBER EWG MEETING LATE THE EVENING OF THE 13TH AND HENCE HENN CAUTIONED THAT HIS REMARKS DID NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT A FULLY CONSIDERED AND STAFFED REACTION.

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3. HENN SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE UK WOULD BE "WRONG TO OPPOSE" WHAT IT NOW UNDERSTANDS THE US PROPOSAL REALLY TO BE. HE SAID THAT THE MOD SEES AND APPRECIATES THE OVERALL IMPORTANCE THE US ABSCRIBES TO THE EWG/CDE EXERCISE.

4. SAYING THAT HE COULD NOT PROMISE MORE THAN "OVERALL UK SUPPORT" FOR THE US POSITION -- AND NOTING THAT THE UK UNDOUBTEDLY STILL WILL HAVE THE "ODD QUESTION CONCERNING THE ODD POINT" -- HENN FELT HE COULD ASSURE US THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS LEGGE WILL BE GIVEN TONIGHT "WILL BE REASONABLY WARM" AND THE US CAN COUNT ON UK SUPPORT PROVIDED WE BEAR IN MIND THAT THE CDE EFFORT "CLEARLY HAS TO BE DONE WITHIN AVAILABLE TIME AND EFFORT AND WITHOUT OBSTRUCTING OTHER WORK". HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE UK CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT TO USE "OTHER INPUTS" AND THAT THE REPORT DRAW TOGETHER EXISTING INFORMATION/DATA. HOPEFULLY, HENN NOTED, THE EXERCISE CAN AVOID A LOT OF DE NOVO WORK.

5. ON THE BASIS OF OTHER INPUTS INTO THE MOD, IT IS HENN'S OPINION THAT "OTHERS" ARE READING TOO MUCH INTO LEGGE'S "NATURAL AND VERY PROPER QUESTIONING" OF THE MAGNITUDE OF WHAT THE US HAD PROPOSED. HE SAID THAT LEGGE WAS WITHOUT DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS, BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO INSURE THAT THE EWG EXERCISE CONFINE ITSELF TO WHAT IS PRACTICAL. HENN SAID HE FELT THAT THE UK POSITION WAS ONE OF SKEPTICISM RATHER THAN ONE OF OPPOSITION AND THAT NOW THAT LONDON HAS A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND, THE DEGREE OF SKEPTICISM HAS LESSENED CONSIDERABLY.

6. HENN CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE UK APPRECIATED HAVING THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO THE CDE EXERCISE BEING BROUGHT FORCEFULLY TO ITS ATTENTION.

ARMSTRONG

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